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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-35. (Cancelled)

36. (Currently Amended) A system for extracting design and layout information from a plurality of image-mosaics representative of a deconstructed integrated circuit, the system comprising means for enabling parallel design analysis of the image-mosaics by a plurality of engineer analysts concurrently reverse engineering an integrated circuit (IC).

37. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The system as claimed in claim 36, wherein the plurality of image-mosaics are annotated concurrently using a plurality of design analysis workstations.

38. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The system as claimed in claim 37, wherein each ~~one of the annotation objects~~ object created using a design analysis workstation participating in parallel design analysis includes an ownership attribute specifying an engineer analyst associated with the design analysis workstation at a time when the annotation object was created.

39. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 38, wherein annotation objects include an identification string, and the system further comprises means for generating unique identification strings.

40. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The system as claimed in claim 38, wherein annotation objects having different ownership attributes can be merged for display on one design analysis workstation.

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41-77. (Cancelled)

78. (New) The system as claimed in claim 36 wherein the means for enabling concurrent design analysis comprises multi-user extensions to provide facilities for synchronizing work of multiple engineer-analysts working on an IC reverse-engineering project.

79. (New) The system as claimed in claim 39 further comprising means for annotation locking, which permits a creator of an annotation object to lock the annotation object to prevent editing of the annotation object by others while the annotation object is locked, to prevent accidental modification of the annotation object.

80. (New) The system as claimed in claim 36 wherein propagation of signals are prevented by locked annotation objects created by a different engineer analysts, and signal conflicts are flagged but the signals are not propagated.

81. (New) A method of extracting design and layout information from a plurality of image-mosaics representative of a deconstructed integrated circuit, the method comprising enabling parallel design analysis of the image-mosaics by a plurality of engineer analysts concurrently reverse engineering an integrated circuit (IC) by providing multi-user extensions to synchronize work of multiple engineer-analysts working on an IC reverse-engineering project..

82. (New) The method as claimed in claim 81, further comprising providing a plurality of design analysis workstations to permit the plurality of engineer analysts to annotate the image mosaics concurrently.

83. (New) The method as claimed in claim 81, further comprising providing ownership attributes for specifying an engineer analyst associated with a design analysis workstation at a time when the annotation object is created.

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84. (New) The method as claimed in claim 83, further comprising generating unique identification strings for the annotation objects.

85. (New) The method as claimed in claim 83, further comprising merging annotation objects having different ownership attributes for display on one design analysis workstation.

86. (New) The method as claimed in claim 83 further comprising preventing editing of annotation objects by permitting a creator of an annotation object to lock the annotation object to prevent editing of the annotation object by others while the annotation object is locked.

87. (New) The method as claimed in claim 86 further comprising preventing propagation of signals by locked annotation objects created by a different engineer analysts, while flagging all signal conflicts.